

### **AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 4 with the following amended paragraph.

The transposon-based vectors of the present invention include a transposase, operably-linked to a first promoter, and a coding sequence for a protein or peptide of interest operably-linked to a second promoter, wherein the coding sequence for the protein or peptide of interest and its operably-linked promoter are flanked by transposase insertion sequences recognized by the transposase. The transposon-based vector also includes the following characteristics: a) one or more modified Kozak sequences comprising ACCATG (SEQ ID NO:13) at the 3' end of the first promoter to enhance expression of the transposase; b) modifications of the codons for the first several N-terminal amino acids of the transposase, wherein the nucleotide at the third base position of each codon was changed to an A or a T without changing the corresponding amino acid; c) addition of one or more stop codons to enhance the termination of transposase synthesis; and/or, d) addition of an effective polyA sequence operably-linked to the transposase to further enhance expression of the transposase gene.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 13 and ends on page 14 with the following amended paragraph.

The transposon-based vectors of the present invention include a transposase gene operably-linked to a first promoter, and a coding sequence for a desired protein or peptide operably-linked to a second promoter, wherein the coding sequence for the desired protein or peptide and its operably-linked promoter are flanked by transposase insertion sequences recognized by the transposase. The transposon-based vector also includes one or more of the following characteristics: a) one or more modified Kozak sequences comprising ACCATG (SEQ ID NO:13) at the 3' end of the first promoter to enhance expression of the transposase; b) modifications of the codons for the first several N-terminal amino acids of the transposase, wherein the third base of each codon was changed to an A or a T without changing the corresponding amino acid; c) addition of one or more stop codons to enhance the termination of transposase synthesis; and, d)

addition of an effective polyA sequence operably-linked to the transposase to further enhance expression of the transposase gene. Figure 1 shows a schematic representation of several components of the transposon-based vector. The present invention further includes vectors containing more than one gene of interest, wherein a second or subsequent gene of interest is operably-linked to the second promoter or to a different promoter. It is also to be understood that the transposon-based vectors shown in the Figures are representational of the present invention and that the order of the vector elements may be different than that shown in the Figures, that the elements may be present in various orientations, and that the vectors may contain additional elements not shown in the Figures.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 14 with the following amended paragraph.

In a further embodiment of the present invention, the transposase found in the transposase-based vector is an altered target site (ATS) transposase and the insertion sequences are those recognized by the ATS transposase. However, the transposase located in the transposase-based vectors is not limited to a modified ATS transposase and can be derived from any transposase. Transposases known in the prior art include those found in AC7, Tn5SEQ1, Tn916, Tn951, Tn1721, Tn 2410, Tn1681, Tn1, Tn2, Tn3, Tn4, Tn5, Tn6, Tn9, Tn10, Tn30, Tn101, Tn903, Tn501, Tn1000 ( $\gamma\delta$ ), Tn1681, Tn2901, AC transposons, Mp transposons, Spm transposons, En transposons, Dotted transposons, Mu transposons, Ds transposons, dSpm transposons and I transposons. According to the present invention, these transposases and their regulatory sequences are modified for improved functioning as follows: a) the addition one or more modified Kozak sequences comprising ACCATG (SEQ ID NO:13) at the 3' end of the promoter operably-linked to the transposase; b) a change of the codons for the first several amino acids of the transposase, wherein the third base of each codon was changed to an A or a T without changing the corresponding amino acid; c) the addition of one or more stop codons to enhance the termination of transposase synthesis; and/or, d) the addition of an effective

polyA sequence operably-linked to the transposase to further enhance expression of the transposase gene.